

Jazz Sextet Bio
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The United States Army Field Band

The Musical Ambassadors of the Army
Washington, DC

THE JAZZ SEXTET OF THE U.S. ARMY FIELD BAND

The Jazz Sextet of The United States Army Field Band was developed in the legendary style of Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. It is comprised of members of the Jazz Ambassadors, the Army's premier touring big band. In addition to performing traditional jazz sextet standards, the ensemble contributes new arrangements and compositions that encompass the varied styles of swing, Latin, jazz waltz, ballads, and Afro-Cuban. The Jazz Sextet has presented clinics at colleges and high schools throughout the United States, addressing such subjects as improvisation, arranging, composition, jazz theory, and practice and performance techniques. Notable performances include the Midwest Clinic, the Iowa Bandmasters Conference, and jazz festivals in Toronto and Victoria, Canada.

Sergeant First Class Todd Harrison, drums, started his professional music career at the age of 14 in Houston, Texas. He has experience in virtually all styles of drumming, including all Latin styles, rock, R&B, Broadway shows, country & western, funk, and even Middle Eastern music. He studied jazz under the direction of Shelly Berg at San Jacinto Junior College and also classical percussion at Houston Baptist University. He currently studies Latin percussion with Sam "Seguito" Turner and has performed with many great musicians including Marvin Stamm, Bill Watrous, Paul Gilbert, Clark Terry, Russell Malone, Kirk Whalum, Shelly Berg, Little Joe y La Familia, Grupo Mazz, Joel Frahm, Jay Perez, Paul Langosh, Rob Levit, and Unified Jazz Ensemble. SFC Harrison became a member of the Jazz Ambassadors in 1996.

Sergeant First Class Vince Norman, saxophone, hails from Del City, Oklahoma. He attended the University of Central Oklahoma, majoring in Music Education with an emphasis in Jazz Performance and Composition. SFC Norman has been a member of the Jazz Ambassadors saxophone section since 1988. In addition to his duties with The U.S. Army Field Band, he is in demand as a saxophonist and keyboard player in the Washington, DC, and Baltimore metro areas. His compositions and arrangements have been performed by such notable ensembles as The U.S. Navy Band Commodores, the U.S. Air Force Band Airmen of Note, and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

Sergeant First Class Kevin Watt, trumpet, is originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan, and has been a member of the Jazz Ambassadors since 1991. He received his Masters in Jazz Studies from the University of North Texas, where he recorded with the One O'Clock Lab Band and the North Texas Jazz Singers. He has performed with jazz greats Joe Williams, Art Farmer, Mel Lewis, Arturo Sandoval, Bobby McFerrin, Rich Perry, Joanne Brackeen, and Toots Thielmans. SFC Watt has recorded 12 CDs and on his most recent recording can be heard soloing with the Jerry Ascione Big Band, featuring Marvin Stamm.

Sergeant First Class Jeff Lopez, bass, recently released his debut recording, *The Sun and the Rain*. Many of his compositions are well-known in and around his native New York, where he has been leading groups since 1985. SFC Lopez holds a Bachelor of Music from the Berklee College of Music and a Master of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music. He has studied with Jaco Pastorius, Anthony Jackson, John Patitucci, Cecil McBee, Jeff Andrews, and Mark Egan, and has performed with many noted jazz artists, including Dave Douglas, Kenny Werner, Toots Thielmans, Kenny Drew, Jr., Harold Danko, Gary Bartz, Marvin Stamm, Gary Thomas, Dick Oatts, Bernard Purdie, Rick Margitza, Craig Handy, and Uri Caine. SFC Lopez has been with the Jazz Ambassadors since 1995.

Sergeant First Class Chris Buckholz, trombone, is from Ann Arbor, Michigan. Prior to joining the Jazz Ambassadors as lead trombonist in 1997, he performed as a freelance artist with Tony Bennett, Natalie Cole, Gladys Knight, Rosemary Clooney, Smokey Robinson, Lou Rawls, Joe Williams, Johnny Mathis, Bob Hope, and Martha Reeves and the Vandellas. In addition, he toured extensively and internationally with The Four Tops and The Temptations. SFC Buckholz received his Master of Music degree from Yale University and earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan. While studying at Michigan, he was the trombone teaching assistant and was an assistant professor of trombone at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He has studied intensively with Dennis Smith, Arnold Jacobs, John Swallow, Conrad Herwig, and David Langlitz.